

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for influencing magnetic particles in a region of action, which method has the following steps:

- a) generation of a magnetic field having a pattern in space of its magnetic field strength such that a first sub-zone (301) having a low magnetic field strength and a second sub-zone (302) having a higher magnetic field strength are formed in the region of action, which region of action is situated outside the space surrounding the arrangement having means for generating the magnetic field,
- b) changing the position in space of the two sub-zones in the region of action so that the magnetization of the particles changes locally.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as ~~claimed in of~~ claim 1, wherein ~~at the~~ magnetic field that is positionally and temporally variable is generated to change the position in space of the two sub-zones in the region of action.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as ~~claimed in of~~ claim 1, having the following further steps:

- c) acquiring signals that depend on the magnetization in the region of action, which magnetization is influenced by the change in the position in space,
- d) analyzing the signals to obtain information on the spatial distribution of the magnetic particles in the region of action.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as ~~claimed in of~~ claim 3, wherein the signals that are induced ~~in at least one coil~~ by the temporal change in the magnetization in the region of action are received and are analyzed to obtain information on the spatial distribution of the magnetic particles in the region of action.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The method as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the position in space of the two sub-zones is changed for so long, and at a frequency such, that the region of action heats up.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing the method ~~claimed in claim 1,~~ which apparatus ~~has of~~ claim 1 comprising:

- a) an arrangement having means for generating a magnetic field having a pattern in space of its magnetic field strength such that a first sub-zone (301) having a low magnetic field strength and a second sub-zone (302) having a higher magnetic field strength are formed in the region of action, which region of action is situated outside the space surrounding the arrangement having means for generating the magnetic field,
- b) means for changing the position in space of the two sub-zones in the region of action so that the magnetization of the particles changes locally.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 6, wherein the means for generating the magnetic field comprise a gradient coil arrangement for generating a gradient magnetic field that reverses its direction and has a passage through zero in the first sub-zone of the region of action.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 6 having at least two coils arranged concentrically one within the other, through which coils currents flow in opposite directions of circulation in the operating state.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 6 having at least one coil and at least one ~~permanent magnet~~ situated inside or outside the coil.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 6 having a housing enclosing the arrangement, outside which housing the region of action is situated in front of a side of the housing.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~of claim 6 having a table above which the region of action is situated.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~of claim 6 having means for generating at least one temporally variable magnetic field that is superimposed on the ~~gradient~~ magnetic field, for the purpose of displacing the two sub-zones in the region of action.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~of claim 6 having

- c) means for acquiring signals that depend on the magnetization in the region of action, which magnetization is influenced by the change in the position in space,
- d) means for analyzing the signals to obtain information on the spatial distribution of the magnetic particles in the region of action.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The apparatus as ~~claimed in~~of claim 13 having a coil arrangement for receiving signals induced by the ~~tempora~~ change in the magnetization in the region of action.